

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15057 051015Z

13

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-12 AEC-11 FEA-02 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3134
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD ENRG UR FR

SUBJ: RUMORED FRANCO-SOVIET AGREEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR
REACTORS

REF: A) STATE 215817; B) MOSCOW 9859; C) MOSCOW 14954

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF OCT 3, OFFICER OF FRENCH
EMBASSY MOSCOW PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
REPORTED FRANCO-SOVIET AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR
POWER AREA (REF A) INVOLVING SALE OF LARGE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR
REACTORS TO USSR. SOURCE SAID HE HAD SEEN PRESS REPORTS ON
THIS AGREEMENT, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED (CORRECTLY) TO
FORMER MCGRAW-HILL MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT (RECENTLY TRANSFERRED
TO PARIS). THESE REPORTS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN PREMATURE AND
EXAGGERATED. FRENCH FIRM FRAMATOM WAS CONTINUING ITS DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS AND HOPED REACH AGREEMENT ON SALE OF
REACTORS, BUT NUMBER AND VALUE WOULD IN ANY EVENT BE MUCH
MORE MODEST THAN CLAIMED IN JULY REPORT, IF FOR NO OTHER
REASON THAN FACT THAT FRAMATOM AND CREUSOT-LOIRE WILL HAVE
PROBLEMS FILLING ORDERS FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS PLACED BY
ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15057 051015Z

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOURCE WAS SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING

THAN ANOTHER FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER QUESTIONED ON SAME
SUBJECT(REF C), HE WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DISCUSSING
POSSIBLE REACTOR SALES DESPITE EMBOFF'S OBSERVATIONTHAT
THIS WAS JOINT FRANCE-US PROJECT DUE TO FRAMATOM-WESTINGHOUSE
LINK. SOURCE DID SAY HE UNDERSTOOD FRAMATOM WAS KEEPING
WESTINGHOUSE INFORMED. ON BASIS THESE COMMENTS, FRAMATOM-
SOVIET AGREEMENT ON REACTOR SALE DOES NOT SEEM IMMINENT,
ALTHOUGH SITUATION COULD CHANGE DUE TO SOVIET INTEREST
IN USING UP AVAILABLE FRENCH CREDITS.
STOESSEL

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